



south carolina STATE LIBRARY

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GRANTS FOR PUBLIC AGENCIES

PRIVATE FUNDS FOR PUBLIC AGENCIES

State, county, municipal, and other local government agencies and organizations generally rely on grants from the federal government. Even state grants given to local governments are usually redistributed federal block grants.

Private foundations are often reluctant to award grants **directly** to a public agency or organization, with the exception of educational institutions. It is especially difficult to obtain a grant for operating funds for an existing government program. Most private foundations believe that public services should be funded by public money from taxpayers.

While it is not impossible for a public agency to obtain funding from a private foundation, here are several tips to make it easier.

- ❑ Private foundations often require a public agency to have a partnership arrangement with a local or national nonprofit organization.
- ❑ Narrow your focus – it is easier to obtain funding for a well-defined program with a single goal than to try to fund broad-based project.
- ❑ Network for local resources – check if your agency has a grants office or if it has ever received grants from private foundations.
- ❑ Use magazines, journals, newspapers, and Internet resources to find other public agencies that have received grants. See if they are willing to share their experiences.
- ❑ Start small and gain recognition and credibility.



The South Carolina State Library is a Cooperating Collection of the Foundation Center, New York, NY.